



Press Release

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Pennsylvania's Crop Production

HARRISBURG – Based on conditions as of October 1, 2003, **Pennsylvania's** production of corn for grain, all dry hay, soybeans, all tobacco, apples, and grapes is expected to be above last year according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for grain production is forecast at 108 million bushels, 82.6 percent above last year's crop. Acreage for harvest will total 900,000 with an average yield of 120 bushels per acre, compared with 68 bushels per acre last year. Alfalfa dry hay production is forecast at 2.17 million tons, 22.7 percent above a year ago. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 700 thousand acres for dry alfalfa hay, with an average yield of 3.10 tons per acre, compared to the 2002 average yield of 2.60 tons per acre. Other dry hay production is forecast at 2.64 million tons, 47.3 percent above a year ago. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 1.20 million acres, with an average yield of 2.20 tons per acre, compared to the 2002 average yield of 1.60 tons per acre. Soybean production is expected to be 14.6 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year's production of 10.14 million bushels. Harvested area is expected to be 365,000 acres and yield is expected to be 40 bushels per acre, up 14 bushels per acre from 2002. Pennsylvania's Maryland-type tobacco production is estimated at 2.6 million pounds, up 8.1 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest is set at 1300 acres with an average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre. Pennsylvania's seedleaf-type tobacco production is estimated at 5.28 million pounds, 19.7 percent more than 2002's crop. Acreage for harvest is set at 2,400 acres with an average yield of 2,200 pounds per acre. Apple production is forecast at 440 million pounds, 18.9 percent above last year's 370 million pounds. Grape output is estimated to be 70,000 tons, 31.6 percent above last year's production.

At the **United States** level, corn for grain production as of October 1, 2003, is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 13 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 142.2 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels per acre from September and up 12.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest ever. Both records were set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and the yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields turned out to be higher than expected across much of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains as farmers began to harvest their crops. Based on Farm Service Agency administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and farmers now expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from September, but up 4 percent from 2002.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.47 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the September forecast and 10 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 34.0 bushels per acre, down 4.0 bushels from 2002. With harvest underway, yields are lower than last month in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Based on Farm Service Agency administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and now area planted estimated at 73.6 million acres, down 68,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.5 million acres, down 88,000 acres from September, but up fractionally from the 2002 acreage. Revised 2002 soybean acres, yield, and production were published in the September 30, 2003 *Grain Stocks* report.

U.S. tobacco production is forecast at 844 million pounds, 2 percent above the September 1 forecast, but down 4 percent from 2002. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Area for harvest is forecast at 413,010 acres, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 4 percent from 2002. Yields for 2003 are expected to average 2,044 pounds per acre, 36 pounds higher than the September forecast, but 11 pounds below a year ago.

Dry hay production for alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, is forecast at 78.5 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and 6 percent above 2002. Yields are expected to average 3.34 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from the August forecast and 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate, but up 2 percent from 2002. Other hay production is forecast at 82.2 million tons, virtually the same as August, but up 7 percent from 2002. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons, the same as the August forecast, but 0.15 ton above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.8 million, unchanged from the August estimate, but down 1 percent from 2002.

The final apple production forecast for the 2003 crop year is 9.35 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast, and 9 percent above 2002.

Grape production is forecast at 6.75 million tons, down 4 percent from the August 1 forecast and 8 percent below 2002.